

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN SA 04210 122135Z

70

ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01

/029 W

----- 103369

P 122020Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4082

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 4210

E.O. 11652 - GDS

TAGS: PINR, PFOR, ES

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON DR. FRANCISCO
BETRAND GALINDO

REF: SAN SALVADOR 3810

1. FOLLOWING SUPPLEMENTS BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SUBMITTED IN REF-
TEL ON DR BETRAND GALINDO, AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO THE US

2. PUBLIC CAREER: BETRAND BEGAN HIS PUBLIC CAREER IN THE LATE
1950S AS JUDGE OF THE FIRST INSTANCE IN THREE TOWNS ON THE INTERIOR
AND IN THE CAPITAL. HE SERVED AS SUBSECRETARY OF INTERIOR IN THE
JUNTA THAT REPLACED PRESIDENT LEMUS IN 1960. SUBSEQUENTLY, HE
SERVED FROM TIME TO TIME AS TECHNICAL OR LEGAL ADVISER TO THE
NATIONAL PLANNING AND ECONOMIC COORDINATION COUNCIL (CONAPLAN), THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK AND THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
RELATIONS. FROM JULY 1973 UNTIL THE PRESENT, HE HAS BEEN DIRECTOR
GENERAL OF FOREIGN POLICY, THE THIRD-RANKING POSITION IN THE
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS.

3. POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS: BERTRAND IS NOT KNOWN TO BE AN ACTIVE
MEMBER OF ANY POLITICAL PARTY. A PREVIOUS REPORT THAT HE WAS
ASSOCIATED WITH PRESIDENT MOLINA IN THE EARLY 1960S IS NOT
CORRECT. THE SUBSECRETARY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, DR RICARDO
GUILLERMO CASTANEDA CORNEJO, WHO HAD BEEN BEFRIENDED BY MOLINA
16 YEARS AGO IN SPAIN AND WAS A STUDENT OF BETRAND AT THE UES,
TOLD US THAT BETRAND HAD NOT COME TO MOLINA'S ATTENTION UNTIL AFTER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAN SA 04210 122135Z

MOLINA'S INAUGURATION. AFTER THE UES WAS INTERVENED BY THE GOES

IN JULY 1972, BETRAND, AS A LAW PROFESSOR, WAS CALLED UPON TO TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN THE REORGANIZATION PROCESS. HIS PERFORMANCE AT THAT TASK AND AS A CONSULTANT TO THE AGRICULTURE MINISTER ON AGRARIAN REFORM UNDOUBTEDLY INFLUENCED HIS EVENTUAL NOMINATION AS AMBASSADOR. CASTANEDA CLAIMS THAT MOLINA'S CONFIDENCE IN BETRAND IS BASED SOLELY ON THE LATTER'S RECORD OF SERVICE TO THE MOLINA ADMINISTRATION. SINCE CASTANEDA HAS THE HIGHEST REGARD FOR BETRAND, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT HE MAY HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN RECOMMENDING TO MOLINA BETRAND'S AMBASSADORIAL APPOINTMENT.

4. FAMILY: BETRAND'S PRESENT WIFE, MIRIAM CABALLERO DE BETRAND, IS HIS THIRD. THEY HAVE EIGHT CHILDREN: FRANCISCO RODOLFO, CECILIA EVELYN, MAURICIO RENE, EDUARDO, LISETTE, ANA MARGARITA, NELSON OSWALDO AND KATYA PIERETTE.

5. BETRAND SPEAKS SPANISH AND FRENCH.

6. PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS: THIN AND GAWKY IN HIS YOUTH, BETRAND IN MIDDLE AGE APPEARS STOCKY AND SLIGHTLY STOOPED. HIS BLACK HAIR IS THINNING. HE WEARS BLACK-RIMMED GLASSES. AT SOCIAL GATHERINGS, BETRAND TENDS TO BE RATHER SHY AND WITHDRAWN; BUT IF HE IS APPROACHED AND ENGAGED IN A CONVERSATION, HE IS QUITE FRIENDLY AND OPEN. BETRAND HAS A WELL-DESERVED REPUTATION FOR BEING CASUAL ABOUT APPOINTMENTS. HIS WORK HABITS ARE SOMEWHAT IRRESPONSIBLE (ONE SOURCE COMMENTED THAT BETRAND RARELY COMPLETED TEACHING A COURSE HE HAD BEGUN AT THE UES). ABOUT 10 YEARS AGO, HE WAS ALLEGEDLY DISCHARGED AS LEGAL ADVISER TO A MAJOR INDUSTRIAL FIRM. ACCORDING TO AN EXECUTIVE WHO CURRENTLY WORKS FOR THE COMPANY, UNETHICAL BEHAVIOR MAY HAVE BEEN THE CAUSE.

7. EVALUATION: FROM ALL APPEARANCES, BETRAND IS A HIGHLY INTELLIGENT, PERCEPTIVE AND THOUGHTFUL MAN. HE IS ABLE TO HOLD HIS OWN IN DISCUSSIONS IN A SOFT-SPOKEN, RATIONAL MANNER. IN A RECENT NEWSPAPER ARTICLE, ONE OF BETRAND'S FORMER UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS CALLED HIM DISCIPLINED, METHODICAL AND SOLIDLY PREPARED RATHER THAN BRILLIANT. HE SEEMS FRIENDLY AND RESPECTFUL TOWARD THE US. AT THE UES, HE ALLEGEDLY FOLLOWED A SOMEWHAT LEFTOF-CENTER POLITICAL LINE. HIS SUBSEQUENT ROLE IN THE UNIVERSITY'S REORGANIZATION, HOWEVER, CAUSED SOME OBSERVERS TO COMMENT THAT HE IS "POLITICALLY ADAPTABLE."

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAN SA 04210 122135Z

8. WE ARE POUCHING A COMPLETED FS-405 AND RECENT NEWSPAPER PHOTO. MOSKOWITZ

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SANS04210
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAN SALVADOR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731139/aaaabcul.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION INR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SAN SALVADOR 3810
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Jan-2002 by smithrj>; APPROVED <07 FEB 2002 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADDITIONAL BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON DR. FRANCISCO BETRAND GALINDO
TAGS: PINR, PFOR, ES, US, (BETRAND GALINDO, FRANCISCO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005